

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 16, 2021

**DISSENTING VIEWS ON SUBTITLE C.
BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Committee Republicans oppose Subtitle C. It took a pandemic and Budget reconciliation measure to accomplish, but believe it or not, Ways and Means Democrats brought a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) proposal before the Committee for consideration. Unfortunately, the proposal cannot be considered real reform. Instead, Democrats propose a new \$1 billion Pandemic Emergency Fund. As written, Subtitle C allocates these new funds to states using a 50-50 formula that considers the number of children in each state and what each state spent on assistance and other benefits in 2019. Poverty is not a part of the calculation.

One of the biggest issues Republicans have identified in this COVID reconciliation package is the sheer lack of effort to target additional relief to families and communities that are the most impacted. These resources would be better targeted to existing need if they were allocated based on child poverty. An amendment was offered to allocate the \$1 billion in TANF Pandemic Emergency Assistance funds proportionately based on the number of children living in poverty in each state. According to a memo from the Congressional Research Service (*submitted for the record*), this allocation formula would result in more funding for 11 states represented by Democrat Members of this Committee.¹⁹ The memo demonstrates that this bill does not target resources to areas where they could have the biggest impact.

For example, Alabama would receive \$7 million more if funds were distributed based on child poverty, and Mississippi would receive \$10 million more. In contrast, large states like California (would receive \$97 million less) and New York (would receive \$73 million less) would see a substantial decrease under the child poverty formula. In general, this reveals how skewed the underlying TANF allocation formula is – particularly with regards to its reliance on prior state spending. See Table B for a list of all states. Committee Republicans believe these resources should go into the hands of those who need them most—not just the biggest states, but the states with the most child poverty. Despite repeated declarations of their commitment to reducing child poverty, Committee Democrats rejected the amendment unanimously.

State	Table B. Estimated Allocations to States for a TANF Pandemic Emergency Fund Under Alternative Formulas (rounded)		
	\$1B allocated in the Chairman's Mark	\$1B allocated based on Child Poverty	Difference using child poverty versus Chairman's Mark
Alabama	\$10.1 M	\$17.5 M	+\$7 M

¹⁹ "Memorandum: TANF Pandemic Emergency Fund," Congressional Research Service, February 9, 2021.

Alaska	\$3.3 M	1.7 M	-\$1.6 M
Arizona	\$14.5 M	\$23.7 M	+\$9.2 M
Arkansas	\$5 M	\$11.7 M	+\$6.7 M
California	\$202.3 M	\$104.9 M	-\$97.4 M
Colorado	\$13.5 M	\$10.4 M	-\$3.1 M
Connecticut	\$8.3M	\$7.8 M	-\$0.5 M
Delaware	\$2.1 M	\$2.5 M	+\$0.4 M
DC	\$14.6 M	\$1.8 M	-\$12.8 M
Florida	\$35.4 M	\$56.7 M	+\$21.4 M
Georgia	\$21.9 M	\$35.5 M	+\$13.6 M
Hawaii	\$4.2 M	\$2.8 M	-\$1.4 M
Idaho	\$4.1 M	\$4.5 M	+\$0.4 M
Illinois	\$20.4 M	\$33.6 M	+\$13.2 M
Indiana	\$10.7 M	\$17.7 M	+\$7.1 M
Iowa	\$6.3 M	\$7.1 M	+\$0.7 M
Kansas	\$5.1 M	\$7.8 M	+\$2.7 M
Kentucky	\$17.3 M	\$16.3 M	-\$1.0 M
Louisiana	\$8.4 M	\$22.2 M	+\$13.9 M
Maine	\$3.8 M	\$ 2.5 M	-\$1.3 M
Maryland	\$17.7 M	\$12.1 M	-\$5.6 M
Massachusetts	\$27.7 M	\$11.9 M	-\$15.8 M
Michigan	\$19.0 M	\$28.5 M	+\$9.6 M
Minnesota	\$14.3 M	\$11.0 M	-\$3.3 M
Mississippi	\$4.7 M	\$14.8 M	+\$10.1 M
Missouri	\$14.5 M	\$17.6 M	+\$3.2 M
Montana	\$2.8 M	\$2.5 M	-\$0.3 M
Nebraska	\$4.4 M	\$3.9 M	-\$0.5 M
Nevada	\$6.8 M	\$8.8 M	+2.0 M
New Hampshire	\$4.1 M	\$1.4 M	-\$2.3 M
New Jersey	\$17.2 M	\$18.1 M	+\$0.9 M
New Mexico	\$6.4 M	\$8.9 M	+\$2.6 M
New York	\$127.9 M	\$54.7 M	-\$73.2 M
North Carolina	\$16.8 M	\$33.9 M	+\$17.1 M
North Dakota	\$1.4 M	\$1.4 M	\$0
Ohio	\$33.8 M	\$35.9 M	+\$2.1 M

Oklahoma	\$7.1 M	\$14.3 M	+\$7.2 M
Oregon	\$12.2 M	\$8.5 M	-\$3.7 M
Pennsylvania	\$26.4 M	\$33.5 M	+\$7.0 M
Rhode Island	\$4.3 M	\$2.2 M	-\$2.2 M
South Carolina	\$10.1 M	\$16.5 M	+\$6.4 M
South Dakota	\$2.3 M	\$2.4 M	+\$0.1 M
Tennessee	\$12.9 M	\$22.4 M	+\$9.4 M
Texas	\$49.4 M	\$107.8 M	+\$58.3 M
Utah	\$7.3 M	\$7.0 M	-\$0.3 M
Vermont	\$1.6 M	\$0.9 M	-\$0.7 M
Virginia	\$15.7 M	\$18.8 M	+\$3.1 M
Washington	\$22.6 M	\$15.1 M	-\$7.5 M
West Virginia	\$4.6 M	\$5.4 M	+\$0.8 M
Wisconsin	\$14.5 M	\$12.9 M	-\$1.6 M
Wyoming	\$1.5 M	\$1.2 M	-\$0.3 M



Kevin Brady
 Republican Leader
 Committee on Ways and Means